

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 01625 071751Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 H-01 /026 W  
-----042764 080723Z /11

R 071624Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6248

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 1625

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CARR, PINT, SHUM, NU  
SUBJECT: ARTHUR CHARITON BEGINS HUNGER STRIKE

REF: A) TUCKER/WELTER TELCON 4/6, B) MANAGUA 1560

1. ON APRIL 5 CHARITON'S NICARAGUAN ATTORNEY VISITED EMBASSY TO PICK UP SOME ITEMS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR HIS CLIENT, WHO REMAINS AT THE MILITARY HOSPITAL. DURING HIS VISIT ZELAYA TOLD EMBOFFS THAT CHARITON HAS BEGUN A HUNGER STRIKE WHICH WILL ONLY END WHEN HE IS RELEASED FROM NICARAGUAN CUSTODY. ZELAYA WENT ON TO SAY THAT CHARITON HAS ACCUSED AMBASSADOR SOLAUN AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF OF BRUTALITY DURING HIS EVICTION FROM THE EMBASSY PREMISES. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN BEATEN ABOUT THE ARMS, SHOULDERS AND LEGS. ZELAYA ADDED THAT HAD HE, AS CHARITON'S ATTORNEY, BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE EMBASSY'S INTENTION TO TURN OVER HIS CLIENT TO THE NICARAGUANS, HE COULD HAVE INSURED CHARITON'S PEACEFUL DEPARTURE FROM THE PREMISES. THE ATTORNEY ALSO SAID THAT CHARITON EXPECTS TO BE RETURNED TO THE MANAGUA CITY JAIL WITHIN TWO OR THREE DAYS, IN SPITE OF HIS POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON APRIL 6, ZELAYA CAME AGIN TO EMBASSY AND TOLD EMBOFF THAT HUNGER STRIKE HAD AS AN ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVE A FULL EXPLANATION BY EMBASSY OF REASONS FOR CHARITON'S TURNOVER TO NICARAGUANS. IN RESPONSE TO OFFER, HE OPINED THAT CHARITON PROBABLY NOT INTERESTED IN BEING VISITED BY CONSULAR OFFICER AT THIS TIME.

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3. COMMENT: CHARITON'S CLAIM OF HAVING BEEN BEATEN IS, OF COURSE, TOTALLY UNTRUE. HIS VIOLENT STRUGGLE WITH BOTH EMBASSY AND NICARAGUAN POLICE OFFICERS, HOWEVER, COULD WELL HAVE RESULTED IN SUPERFICIAL BRUISES AND SCRATCHES. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO BLOWS WERE EMPLOYED BY ANYONE INVOLVED.

4. ALTHOUGH CHARITON'S ANIMOSITY TOWARD EMBASSY OFFICERS ASSOCIATED

WITH HIS RETURN TO NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES MAY CAUSE HIM TO REFUSE TO SEE THEM, OTHER EMBASSY PERSONNEL WILL SEEK TO VISIT HIM ON A REGULAR BASIS.  
EMBASSY NURSE WILL ATTEMPT TO SEE HIM ON APRIL 7 AND OTHER EMBASSY PERSONNEL WILL SEE HIM NEXT WEEK.

5. WE ARE PREPARING A RESPONSE TO CHARITON AND LAWYER ZELAYZ ON REASONS FOR HIS RETURN TO NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES BASED UPON TEXT OF RELEASE ON TEMPORARY REFUGE/DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM, AND ON DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE.

6. WE BELIEVE CHARITON'S FEAR OF BEING RETURNED TO MANAGUA CITY JAIL IS REAL, BUT DOUBT THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN BEFORE HE HAS FULLY RECOVERED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** CARR, PINT, SHUM, NU, (CHARITON, ARTHUR HARRY)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014